



## 8-Net - Headlines

**Denver Post Letter: Citizens of old mining town want, deserve cleanup**

# Denver Post

letters

**Monday, November 10, 2003 -****Citizens of old mining town want, deserve cleanup**

Re: "Town resists cleanup proposal; Mountain burg sees EPA plan as threat," Nov. 4 news story.

To clarify, reference to the town of Rico, Colorado The Post's headline should have read, "Town Board resists cleanup proposal."

The Environmental Protection Agency approached my husband one Friday afternoon and asked us if we would like to have our soil tested. We said "yes." Then we found out later that some people in town, including Town Board members, were going around and saying, "The EPA is lying to you. They just want to condemn your property!" This really put the fear in people and caused them to refuse testing.

Our view is that if levels are so high on our property that it requires condemning, then condemn it! Our family's welfare is more important than our property value. When we asked our neighbors and other people in town, none of them knew about the vote by the Town Board to refuse testing. They were appalled to hear of it, and were not aware that the EPA was in town to do testing. Those people have asked to see our results when we get them.

We realize Rico is trying to grow, and EPA Superfund designation certainly could stunt growth, but it is better to be upfront with the community than to keep things from it.

What is more important: the bottom line or the health and welfare of our community? I don't want our children to have some type of cancer in their teens, and if we can do something about it, we should. We realize that living in a former mining town has its risks, but we should not risk the lives of our families.

**LORI MERRICK**

Rico

For additional information, please contact Frank Montarelli.

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